Subsidising Wheat Exports

162. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to subsidise wheat exports to make it competitive;

(b) if so, the extent of subsidy to be given; and

(c) whether open market import of wheat has stopped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Government is carrying excessive wheat stocks in relation to buffer norms. In view of normal wheat crop, liquidation of excessive stocks has become necessary. Export of wheat can be one way of liquidating stocks. Ruling prices of wheat in India being high as compared to international prices, the export potential is extremely bleak unless it is subsidized, the extent of which will vary from transaction to transaction depending upon the market conditions.

(c) The open market import of wheat has been checked as a result of the imposition of 50% duty on wheat imports.

Storage of Reserve of Food Stock

163. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are faced with the problem of storage of huge reserves of food stocks;

(b) whether private sector has been involved in storing this year; and

(c) if so, the details in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF